

Response to the Restriction Requirement Dated January 6, 2005
Serial No. 10/658,354

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus Apparatus~~ for increasing driver visibility, comprising ~~at least one mirror surface in substantially vertical orientation and surfaces extendable extending~~ substantially horizontally and vertically from ~~the a~~ rear end of a vehicle.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:
~~a connecting means connecting said mirrors surfaces wherein said connecting means connects said two adjacent mirror surfaces forming an angle ranging between 0 degrees and 120 degrees, and a means of connecting said mirrors.~~

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ according to claim 2, wherein ~~said mirror surfaces form an angle of is~~ about 90 degrees.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ according to claim 2, wherein ~~said mirror surfaces are concave.~~

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ according to claim 1, further comprising a ~~rotating~~ means of rotatably altering the positions of ~~positioning~~ said at least one mirror surfaces surface.

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6. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ according to claim 2, wherein said connecting means ~~of connecting~~ said mirror surfaces comprises a hinge, and further comprising a rotating means ~~of rotatably altering the positions of~~ of positioning said mirror surfaces.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ according to claim 6, wherein said mirror surfaces ~~rotatably~~ fold into a substantially planar position for deployment.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for increasing driver visibility according to claim 1, further comprising a housing for storage of said mirror surface, and a telescoping means for extending said mirror surfaces from said housing.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~for increasing driver visibility~~ as in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is mounted to a rear license plate of the vehicle.

10. (Currently amended) A visual aid ~~helping a driver to safely back into a traffic lane from a parking place, said visual aid providing visual images from a vantage point just beyond the rear periphery of a motor vehicle, wherein the visual information shows vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic in close proximity to rear of the motor vehicle and obliquely to left and right sides thereof, said visual images being presented within the view of the driver, said visual aid comprising:~~

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a mirror assembly; ~~attached to the motor vehicle, said mirror assembly including a power source within~~
~~a compact housing attached to an exterior of a vehicle; containing a lifting mechanism within said housing, wherein said lift mechanism positions said mirror assembly alternately deploying and storing a mirror upon an activator within the passenger compartment of the vehicle.~~

11. (Currently amended) The visual aid as in Claim 10, wherein said mirror ~~has assembly includes a pair of concave reflecting surfaces non-parallel placed at an angles to each other; and said mirror being attached to an end of lift mechanism includes a telescoping rod attached to said mirror assembly deploying said mirror outward.~~

12. (Currently amended) The visual aid as in Claim 10, further comprising an activator, wherein said activator is a radio transmitter.

13. (Currently amended) The visual aid as in Claim 10, further comprising an activator, wherein said activator is connected by a communications cable joining said lift mechanism ~~mirror to the a passenger compartment of the a motor vehicle.~~

14. (Currently amended) The visual aid as in Claim 10 wherein said visual aid compact housing is attached to a rear license plate holder of ~~the a~~ motor vehicle.

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15. (Withdrawn) The visual aid as in Claim 14 wherein said telescoping mirror is deployed vertically and a single mirror surface is used, said mirror assembly being rotatable to orient said mirror to view first one direction and then the other direction along a traffic lane.

16. (Withdrawn) The visual aid as in Claim 10 wherein said mirror is a two surface mirror attached at an end of an extending arm attached in a fixed fashion to the car top carrier.

17. (Withdrawn) The visual aid as in Claim 10 wherein said mirror assembly is deployable from within a rear roof structure, said mirror being hinged so that both surfaces can be stored flat, said mirror being deployed out of the roof on a telescoping rod and hinged down on a short arm to deploy in clear view of a rear window of the motor vehicle.

18. (Withdrawn) The visual aid as in Claim 10 wherein said mirror assembly straddles the glass on the rear window of the motor vehicle said folded two-surface deployable mirror, said mirror being extended rearward.

19. (Withdrawn) The visual aid as in Claim 10 wherein said mirror is a two-camera closed circuit video system with a flat panel display screen configured as a split screen, said display deployed down from the ceiling of the motor vehicle at the rear window when needed and folding flat with the ceiling when not in use.

20. (Original) A method for safely backing a vehicle into a traffic lane comprising the

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steps of:

providing a visual display within the viewscape of the driver while peering directly through the rear window or while facing forward;
viewing the rear view mirror wherein said display presents images of said traffic lane in both directions derived from a vantage point just beyond the rear periphery of said vehicle to alert said driver to any approaching traffic which may present a hazard.